

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's submission filed 11/12/09, was in response to the 10/21/09 Office action which detailed the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 16-19, 21, and 23-25. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended, and claims 28-29 have been added. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 16-19, 21, 23-25, and 28-29 remain pending in the application and have been fully considered by the examiner.

Response to Arguments/Amendments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-11, filed 11/12/09, with respect to claims 28 and 29 have been fully considered and are persuasive. All other arguments are moot in view of the Examiner's Amendment below.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chad E. King, Reg. No. 44,187 on 2/10/10 and 2/12/10. During the interview, the examiner suggested incorporation of the limitations of new claims 28-29 into their respective independent claims. In a follow-up call on 2/12/10, Mr. King provided authorization for the amendment.

The application has been amended as follows:

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In The Claims

Please amend claims 1, 19, and 23, and cancel claims 28 and 29 as provided in the attached claim amendments titled "Proposed Examiner's Amendment."

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 16-19, 21, and 23-25 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The examiner indicated that this application would be in condition for allowance if the independent claims 1 and 19 are amended to include the features of claims 28 and 29, respectively. The above features, taken in combination with all remaining features of the independent claim are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. The applicant agreed to amend the independent claims 1 and 19 as indicated by the examiner. The distinctions provided by the independent claims apply equally to all dependent claims. Thus all pending claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 16-19, 21, and 23-25 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES RUTTEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571)272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/J. Derek Rutton/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2192